Invalid Provision of the Cinematograph Act, 1981

2431. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has declared as "unconstitutional" a provision of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 by which Government review the decisions of the Censor Board or the Appellate Tribunal regarding clearance of a film;

(b) if so, what are the main objections raised by the Supreme Court in its order;

(c) whether any fresh legislation in this regard is being considered;

(d) if so, by what time; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The revisional powers of the Central Government, conferred by Section 6(1) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, have been held as 'unconstitutional' by the Supreme Court on the ground that the executive cannot sit in an appeal or review or revise the order of a quasi-judicial body.

(c) to (e) Government is examining the matter.

Foundation stone for TV and Radio Station in Mahboob Nagar of A.P.

2432. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foundation stone for TV and Radio relay station was laid in Mahboob Nagar, Andhra Pradesh several years back by the then Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and

(b) if so, the reasons why there has not been any progress in construction of the said relay station and when the construction is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheme was included in the draft 9th Plan but it could not be retained due to financial constraints. At present, there is no approved Scheme for setting up of a Radio Station or TV Kendras at Mahboob Nagar.

Requisitioning the services of Modi Entertainment Network

2433. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan has requisitioned the services of Modi Entertainment Network to monitor the carriage of DD Channels by the Cable operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for requisitioning the services of private company;

(d) whether any payment has to be made for providing this service; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Prasar Bharati have intimated that with a view to ensuring distribution of good quality signal of Doordarshan channels through cable network throughout the territory of India and promotion and monitoring of some of its channels, Doordarshan has entered into an agreement with M/s. Modi Entertainment Network Ltd. This arrangement has been made as Doordarshan does not have adequate infrastructure to carry out the above task.

(d) and (e) As per the agreement, DD has to pay Rs.16.66 lakhs per month to M/s Modi Entertainment Network for their services.